

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1072  
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the directors, officers and staff of Farmers Bank on the occasion of their 100th anniversary of service to the citizens of Cornersville, Lewisburg and Marshall County.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is honored to recognize those financial institutions within this State whose long histories are intertwined with the growth of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy institution is Farmers Bank, which is celebrating one hundred years of dedicated financial service to growing and prosperous Cornersville, Lewisburg, and Marshall County; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2004, Farmers Bank will have operated successfully for one hundred years, providing ten decades worth of capital investment that has been and continues to be vital to the community's housing, educational, agricultural, and industrial expansion; and

WHEREAS, for a century, Farmers Bank has also served as a model corporate citizen, supporting education and numerous other worthy civic and charitable causes; along the way, Farmers Bank has not only strengthened Marshall County fiscally, but also made it a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, Farmers Bank has attained all of these remarkable achievements and the current milestone of longevity while maintaining its unsurpassed reputation of operating a safe, sound financial institution with the highest measure of honesty and ethics; and

WHEREAS, Farmers Bank was founded in 1904, at the turn of the twentieth century, in Cornersville; having since undergone a population explosion to number 800 citizens strong, Cornersville is still home to "corporate headquarters" for Farmers Bank; and

WHEREAS, one hundred years later, at the turn of the twenty-first century in 2004, Farmers Bank is still serving southern Middle Tennessee as an independent community bank; and

WHEREAS, located just 60 miles from Nashville with two convenient locations in Cornersville and Lewisburg, Farmers Bank serves Marshall and surrounding counties with the utmost diligence, acumen, and conviviality; and

WHEREAS, in addition to continuing to fulfill its original mission of serving farmers and the agricultural community, Farmers Bank has grown to offer a wide range of financial services to a diverse customer base of individuals, small businesses, local government, industry, and yes, farmers; and

WHEREAS, on July 22-23, 1904, a group of distinguished citizens of Cornersville and Marshall County met to discuss the organization of a corporate body "for the purpose of doing a general banking business," and the Farmers Bank was duly incorporated by the State of Tennessee on July 26, 1904; and

WHEREAS, Farmers Bank was chartered with an initial capital investment of twelve thousand dollars representing 120 shares of stock, and the bank's charter of incorporation appointed Farmers Bank's original nine-member Board of Directors: J.B. Gambill, D.C. Kennedy, D.B. Clayton, J.E. Fowler, J.B. Edwards, W.E. Allen, J.F. Burt, W.G. Wilkinson, and J.A. Bartlett; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alfred Jones served with distinction as the first President of Farmers Bank; in 1913, during his illustrious tenure as a State Senator, Dr. Jones was instrumental in passing legislation that brought "the railroad" to Marshall County; and

WHEREAS, what was then the Lewisburg-Northern Railroad, and would eventually become part of the Louisville-Nashville or L&N Railroad, played a major role in attracting business and industry to Marshall County; and

WHEREAS, the good people who comprise the present management and staff of Farmers Bank are very proud that the bank's first President was such an important figure in their community's growth and progress; these fine folks continue this tradition of excellence today in many capacities; and

WHEREAS, other important dates in the distinguished history of Farmers Bank include: September 2, 1926, when the bank purchased the building it was renting at the time; January 2, 1933, when B.D. London was elected to the Board of Directors; March 11, 1933, when the bank applied to become a member of the Federal Reserve Bank; and June 21, 1935, when the bank became a member of FDIC; and

WHEREAS, Farmers Bank has been and continues to be a fixture in the lives of the citizens of Cornersville, Lewisburg, and Marshall County, and should be recognized for its many contributions to the past one hundred years of southern Middle Tennessee's panoramic history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the directors, officers, and staff of Farmers Bank for the many services they provide to their community and customers, their ongoing commitment to excellence, and their one hundred years of dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Farmers Bank and extend to the directors, officers, staff, and patrons of Farmers Bank our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.